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*Congress of the United States*  
*House of Representatives*  
*Washington, DC 20515-4209*

March 30, 2020

Governor Asa Hutchinson  
State Capitol Room 250  
500 Woodlane Ave.  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Governor Tate Reeves  
Sillers Building, 19th Floor  
550 High Street  
Jackson, MS 39201

Dear Governors Hutchinson and Reeves:

I write today to urgently request you issue mandatory shelter in place orders for your state and prohibit gatherings of more than ten people. I am proud to represent the Ninth District of Tennessee that connects our three states, but I fear that, without these preventative measures, it will become a hub of illness that will quickly overcome Memphis's health care facilities.

Memphis is home to several state of the art hospitals including Regional One Medical Center, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Methodist University and Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. Without shelter in place orders, this virus will continue to spread and these facilities will quickly become overwhelmed. Shelter in place orders are the most effective preventative tool we have at our disposal, and they must be utilized to their fullest extent.

Particularly concerning is the lack of regional hospital access across state lines. Citizens from Arkansas and Mississippi regularly travel to Memphis for medical care and will do the same should they fall ill with COVID-19.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
**SUBCOMMITTEES:**  
CHAIR – CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND  
CIVIL LIBERTIES  
COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND THE  
INTERNET  
CRIME, TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
**SUBCOMMITTEES:**  
AVIATION  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND HAZARDOUS  
MATERIALS  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
**SUBCOMMITTEES:**  
INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT  
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY  
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION  
IN EUROPE (U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

To continue to allow residents of Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi to travel freely around their states and across state lines protects no one and puts lives at risk.

Memphis Mayor, Jim Strickland, issued a Safer at Home Order effective midnight on March 24, 2020 through midnight April 7, 2020. Additionally, Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris issued a Safer at Home Executive Order for the entire county. These protective measures will not protect Memphians from those still traveling and contributing to the spread of the deadly COVID-19 virus. I urge you to issue mandatory shelter in place orders and restrict large gatherings to protect our citizens and health care workers already putting their lives at risk.

Sincerely,



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

CC:

Senator Lamar Alexander, Tennessee

Senator Marsha Blackburn, Tennessee

Senator Tom Cotton, Arkansas

Senator John Boozman, Arkansas

Senator Roger Wicker, Mississippi

Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mississippi

Congressman David Kustoff, Tennessee's Eighth Congressional District

Congressman Rick Crawford, Arkansas's First Congressional District

Congressman Bennie Thompson, Mississippi's Second Congressional District

Congressman Trent Kelly, Mississippi's First Congressional District

Mayor Lee Harris, Mayor of Shelby County, TN

Mayor Jim Strickland, Mayor of Memphis, TN